

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ZEPNICK

SERVING WISCONSIN'S 9TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Capitol Update – Tobacco Retailer Bill

January 28th, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

I want to let you know about a bill before the Legislature I believe will have a positive impact on our community. Assembly Bill 628 was introduced by Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee), and I have signed on as the second Democratic co-sponsor to the bill. The legislation would give the City of Milwaukee authority to investigate and punish properties with tobacco licenses which cause problems in our community. These actions would include disorderly, unsanitary, or indecent property, allowing known criminals to loiter, or having significant activity related to the illegal sales of controlled substances. I believe this bill lays out positive standards by which all businesses in our community should be held to.

The bill came up for a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary on January 4th and in the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government on January 26th. Below is an excerpt from my testimony to both committees:

"Currently, my community does not have the ability to deal with a future problem business at any location. On one busy corner alone, a tobacco shop operates next to more than ten successful businesses, residential areas with many kids and young adults, and public housing. Simply put, a disorderly premises or criminal activity would put these businesses, and residents in the area, at risk. As such, it should come as no surprise this legislation has seen support from both business and neighborhood associations in Milwaukee. There are few options under current law which my constituents and the city can use to address problem tobacco retailers should any issues arise Under AB 628, they would now be given a chance to make their concerns heard, and give municipalities legitimate control over a local matter."

I will always work to make our communities a safer place and give our local government greater power over its own affairs. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

As always, my best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Zepnick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District
Wisconsin State Assembly